

Applicant: Schleth, et al.
Application Serial No.: 10/622,041
Filing Date: July 17, 2003
Docket No.: 442-192
Page 7

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully considered the Office Action dated September 8, 2004, and the references cited therein. Applicants have amended the application in a sincere effort to place the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that Claim 19 is objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants gratefully acknowledge this indication of allowable subject matter. New Claim 20 has been added which includes the limitations of Claims 1, 17 and 19. In that this combination of claims has been deemed allowable, Applicants respectfully request that new Claim 20 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

The remaining claims have been rejected either under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,616,858 to Woodman.

During a telephonic interview with the Examiner on September 1, 2004, the Examiner indicated to Applicants' attorney that amendment of Claim 1 to include the language "at any point annularly" after the phrase "having a larger cross-section", would result in allowance of the claim.

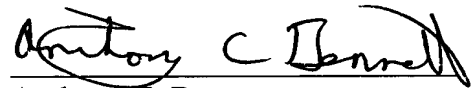
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Page 8

Accordingly, Applicants have amended Claim 1 as suggested by the Examiner.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1, and those claims depending therefrom,
patentably distinguish over the references of record.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would be helpful in moving the
case towards allowance, she is respectfully invited to contact Applicants' attorney at the
number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony E. Bennett", written over a horizontal line.

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